

**AGRICULTURE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS
CHAPTER 110-79 ASSIGNMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE**

SUPPLEMENTING

**FEDERAL MANAGEMENT REGULATION
SUBCHAPTER C--REAL PROPERTY
PART 102-79--ASSIGNMENT AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE**

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102-79.5 What is the scope of this part?

The real property policies contained in this part apply to Federal agencies, including the GSA/Public Buildings Service (PBS), operating under, or subject to, the authorities of the Administrator of General Services.

102-79.10 What basic assignment and utilization of space policy governs an executive agency?

Executive agencies must provide a quality workplace environment that supports program operations, preserves the value of real property assets, meets the needs of the occupant agencies, and provides child care and physical fitness facilities in the workplace when adequately justified. An executive agency must promote maximum utilization of Federal workspace, consistent with mission requirements, to maximize its value to the Government.

110-79.10 Assignment and utilization space policy governing USDA.

- (a) Each USDA agency is responsible for the assignment and utilization of space within standards prescribed in these regulations and in Departmental Regulation (DR) [1620-2](#), USDA Space Management Policy.***
- (b) USDA agencies may submit requests for space directly to GSA to acquire Government-owned or-leased space except in cases specified in 110-73-30. Agencies will coordinate space requests with other Departmental agencies through the State's Food and Agriculture Councils (FAC)(DR [1043-12](#)) to ensure the Department's policy on collocation is followed (DR [1620-2](#)).***
- (c) USDA agencies planning to acquire a new or increased GSA space assignment of 5,000 ore more square feet require prior approval of the Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM).***
- (d) Exercise of the Department's delegated leasing authority to acquire space in major urban centers requires prior approval from the Director, OPPM (DR [1620-2](#)).***
- (e) OPPM is responsible for general Departmental oversight and issuance of policies, procedures, standards and guidelines on the assignment and utilization of space occupied by USDA. OPPM is the liaison agency between USDA and GSA Headquarters.***

102-79.15 What objectives must an executive agency strive to meet in providing assignment and utilization of space services?

Executive agencies must provide assignment and utilization services that will maximize the value of Federal real property resources and improve the productivity of the workers housed therein.

102-79.20 What standard must executive agencies promote when assigning space?

Executive agencies must promote the optimum use of space for each assignment at an economical cost to the Government, provide quality workspace that is delivered and occupied in a timely manner, and assign space based on mission requirements.

110-79.20 USDA standard for assigning space.

- (a) The standard utilization rate for USDA office space is 150 square feet per person average (DR [1620-2](#)).***

(b) When USDA agencies have more than one USDA presence in a community, the agencies should strive to collocate operations into one USDA Office. Coordinating space actions through the Local or State FAC in order to create or maintain collocated offices will facilitate sharing space and other resources and minimize costs.

102-79.25 May Federal agencies allot space in Federal buildings for the provision of child care services?

Yes, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. 490b, Federal agencies can allot space in Federal buildings to individuals or entities who will provide child care services to Federal employees if such:

- (a) Space is available;
- (b) Agency determines that such space will be used to provide child care services to children of whom at least 50 percent have one parent or guardian who is a Federal Government employee; and
- (c) Agency determines that such individual or entity will give priority for available child care services in such space to Federal employees.

102-79.30 May Federal agencies allot space in Federal buildings for establishing fitness centers?

Yes, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 7901, Federal agencies can allot space in Federal buildings for establishing fitness programs.

102-79.35 What elements must Federal agencies address in their planning effort for establishing fitness programs?

Federal agencies must address the following elements in their planning effort for establishing fitness programs:

- (a) A survey indicating employee interest in the program;
- (b) A three-to five-year implementation plan demonstrating long-term commitment to physical fitness/health for employees;
- (c) A health related orientation, including screening procedures, individualized exercise programs, identification of high-risk individuals, and appropriate follow-up activities;
- (d) Identification of a person skilled in prescribing exercise to direct the fitness program;
- (e) An approach that will consider key health behavior related to degenerative disease, including smoking and nutrition;

- (f) A modest facility that includes only the essentials necessary to conduct a program involving cardiovascular and muscular endurance, strength activities, and flexibility;
- (g) Provision for equal opportunities for men and women, and all employees, regardless of grade level.

102-79.40 Can Federal agencies allot space in Federal buildings to Federal credit unions?

Yes, in accordance with 12 U.S.C. 1770, Federal agencies may allot space in Federal buildings to Federal credit unions without charge for rent or services if:

- (a) At least 95 percent of the membership of the credit union to be served by the allotment of space is composed of persons who either are presently Federal employees or were Federal employees at the time of admission into the credit union, and members of their families; and
- (b) Space is available.

102-79.45 What type of services may Federal agencies provide without charge to Federal credit unions?

Federal agencies may provide without charge to Federal credit union services such as:

- (a) Lighting;
- (b) Heating and cooling;
- (c) Electricity;
- (d) Office furniture;
- (e) Office machines and equipment;
- (f) Telephone service (including installation of lines and equipment and other expenses associated with telephone service); and
- (g) Security systems (including installation and other expenses associated with security systems).

102-79.50 What standard must executive agencies promote in their utilization of space?

Executive agencies, when acquiring or utilizing federally owned and leased space under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended, must promote efficient utilization of space. Where there is no Federal agency space need, executive

agencies must make every effort to maximize the productive use of vacant space through the issuance of permits, licenses or leases to nonfederal entities to the extent authorized by law.

110-79.50 USDA must abide by the USDA Space Management Policy contained in DR [1620-2](#).

102-79.55 Is there a general hierarchy of consideration that agencies must follow in their utilization of space?

Yes, Federal agencies must:

- (a) First utilize space in Government-owned and Government-leased buildings.
- (b) If there is no suitable space in Government-owned and Government-leased buildings, utilize space in buildings under the custody and control of the U.S. Postal Service.
- (c) If there is no suitable space in buildings under the custody and control of the U.S. Postal Service, agencies may acquire real estate by lease, purchase, or construction, as specified in part 102-73 of this chapter.

102-79.60 Are agencies required to use historic properties available to the agency?

Yes, Federal agencies must assume responsibility for the preservation of the historic properties they own or control. Prior to acquiring, constructing or leasing buildings, agencies must use, to the maximum extent feasible, historic properties already owned or leased by the agency (16 U.S.C. 470h-2).

102-79.65 What guidelines must an agency follow if it elects to establish a public access defibrillation program in a Federal facility?

Federal agencies electing to establish a public access defibrillation program in a Federal facility must follow the guidelines, entitled "Guidelines for Public Access Defibrillation Programs in Federal Facilities," which can be obtained from the Office of Real Property (MP), General Services Administration, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20405.